II. Listing of Claims

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An air-bag comprising an inflatable element having an inflatable region and a gas inlet throat joined to and extending from the inflatable region, the gas inlet throat configured for receiving gas to inflate the inflatable region, a gusset defined by a wrinkled region of excess fabric and being present in the region proximate to the junction between the gas inlet throat and the inflatable region, wherein the gusset elongates to absorb force that is applied by the gas to the inflatable element when the inflatable region is inflated.

2. (Previously Presented) An air-bag according to Claim 1, wherein the inflatable region and the gas inlet throat each have at least a first and a second side edge, the first side edge of the gas inlet throat being substantially aligned with a first side of the inflatable region, the second side edge of the gas inlet throat being substantially perpendicular to a second side edge of the inflatable region, the gusset being located adjacent the junction of the second side edge of the gas inlet throat and the second side edge of the inflatable region.

3. (Previously Presented) An air-bag according to Claim 1, wherein the gas inlet throat is cranked and extends from a point between opposed ends of a side edge of the inflatable region, one part of the throat being substantially parallel with the side edge.

4. (Previously Presented) An air-bag according to Claim 1 wherein the gusset is formed integrally with the air-bag.

5. (Currently Amended) An air-bag according to Claim 1 wherein the inflatable region has a gas flow passage formed within it, the gas flow passage defining a first axis, and at least part of the gas inlet throat configured to be connected to an inflator defines a second axis, the air-bag having a first and a second configuration, the axis of the gas flow passage and the axis of the gas inlet throat defining an oblique angle therebetween in the first configuration, the axes being co-aligned or parallel and the gusset ~~of excess fabric~~ being present in the region proximate to the junction between the gas inlet throat and the inflatable region in the second configuration.

6. (Original) An air-bag according to Claim 5, wherein the inflatable region incorporates a plurality of cells defined by seams in the air-bag, the cells communicating with the gas flow passage.

7. (Original) An air-bag according to Claim 6, wherein straps extend from spaced apart points on the inflatable region, each strap having a free end adapted to be secured to a respective anchoring point formed on the interior of a vehicle.

8. (Previously Presented) An air-bag according to Claim 1 wherein the air-bag is formed from woven fabric.

9. (Previously Presented) An air-bag according to Claim 8 wherein the woven fabric has warp and weft yarns, and further wherein a gas flow passage formed within the inflatable region defines an axis which is aligned with either the warp yarns or the weft yarns of the woven fabric, and further wherein the axis defined by the gas inlet throat is inclined at an oblique angle relative to either the warp yarns or the weft yarns of the fabric.

10. (Previously Presented) An air-bag according to Claim 5 wherein the oblique angle is between 10 and 20 degrees.

11. (Previously Presented) An air-bag according to Claim 10 wherein the oblique angle is 15 degrees.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for processing an air-bag for mounting in a vehicle, the air-bag comprising an inflatable element having an inflatable region and a gas inlet throat joined to and extending from a side edge of the inflatable region, the inflatable region having a gas flow passage formed within it, the gas flow passage defining a first axis; the gas inlet throat communicating with an inflator and defining a second axis, the gas inlet throat initially extending from the inflatable region, the method comprising the step of re-positioning the gas inlet throat from a first condition in which the axis

defined by the gas inlet throat is inclined relative to the axis defined by the gas flow passage to a second condition in which the axis defined by the gas inlet throat is aligned with the axis defined by the gas flow passage, thereby forming a gusset of excess material, the gusset being located adjacent the junction of the gas inlet throat and the side edge of the inflatable region.

13. (Original) A method of processing an air-bag according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of concertina-folding the inflatable region.

14. (Original) A method of processing an air-bag according to Claim 13, wherein the concertina folds are parallel to the axis defined by the gas flow passage of the inflatable region.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of processing an air-bag according to Claim 12 further comprising the step of encasing the air-bag in a sleeve or housing.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of processing an air-bag according to Claim 15, further comprising the step of locating parts of the air-bag to extend through apertures formed in the sleeve or housing such that the parts protrude from the sleeve or housing.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of processing an air-bag according to Claim 12 further comprising the step of connecting the gas inlet throat to a gas generator.